

## Worksheet 7 Festivals in Thailand

**Task 1** Listen and put the correct words in the blank.

ritual	renewal	lunar	Symbolizes	spontaneous
rockets	enlightenment	lanterns	making merit	purification.

Thailand is known for its vibrant festivals, deeply rooted in Buddhist traditions, animist beliefs, and local culture. Here are some of the most famous festivals in Thailand:

### Major Festivals in Thailand

#### 1. Songkran Festival (Thai New Year) - April 13-15

- The most famous festival in Thailand, marking the Thai New Year.
- Celebrated with nationwide water fights, symbolizing cleansing and

.....

- Traditional activities include visiting temples, ..... , and family gatherings.
- Chiang Mai and Bangkok are popular destinations for Songkran celebrations.

#### 2. Loy Krathong - November (Exact Date Varies)

- Known as the "Festival of Lights," it falls on the full moon of the 12th ..... month.

- People float small decorated rafts (krathongs) on rivers to pay respect to the Water Goddess.

- In Chiang Mai, the Yi Peng Lantern Festival happens at the same time, where thousands of lanterns are released into the sky.

#### 3. Yi Peng Lantern Festival - November (Same Time as Loy Krathong)

- Celebrated mainly in Northern Thailand, especially in Chiang Mai.

- Thousands of ..... (khom loi) are released into the sky, creating a magical scene.

- ..... letting go of past misfortunes and welcoming good luck.

#### 4. Vegetarian Festival (Nine Emperor Gods Festival) - September/October

- A Taoist festival widely celebrated in Phuket, Bangkok, and other cities with Chinese communities.

- Participants follow a strict vegetarian diet for .....

- Features extreme rituals such as firewalking and body piercing.

#### 5. Makha Bucha Day - February/March

- A Buddhist holiday commemorating the ..... gathering of 1,250 disciples of Buddha.

- Monks lead candlelit processions at temples across Thailand.

**6. Visakha Bucha Day - May**

- Celebrates the birth, ..... , and passing of Buddha.

- Devout Buddhists visit temples to make merit and listen to sermons.

**7. Royal Ploughing Ceremony - May**

- A Brahmin and Buddhist ..... in Bangkok, marking the beginning of the rice-growing season.

- Held at Sanam Luang near the Grand Palace, with participation from members of the Thai royal family.

**8. King's and Queen's Birthdays (Father's & Mother's Day)**

- King's Birthday (Father's Day) - December 5 (Birthday of King Rama IX, also National Day)

- Queen's Birthday (Mother's Day) - August 12 (Birthday of Queen Sirikit)

- Celebrated with candlelight ceremonies, parades, and fireworks.

**Other Regional & Cultural Festivals**

- Phi Ta Khon (Ghost Festival) - June/July: A lively masked festival in Loei Province.

- Rocket Festival (Bun Bang Fai) - May/June: A Northeastern festival where homemade ..... are launched to ask for rain.

- Buffalo Racing Festival - October: A unique festival in Chonburi featuring buffalo races.

- Chinese New Year - January/February: Celebrated in Chinatown areas across Thailand, especially in Bangkok and Phuket.

**Task 2 Chose the correct answer.****Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

1. Which of the following festivals is associated with floating krathongs on the water?

a) Yi Peng      b) Songkran      c) Loy Krathong      d) Makha Bucha

2. The Yi Peng Lantern Festival is primarily celebrated in which Thai city?

a) Chiang Mai    b) Bangkok    c) Pattaya    d) Phuket

3. What is the main purpose of the Vegetarian Festival?

a) To celebrate the Thai New Year  
b) To pay respect to the Water Goddess  
c) To commemorate the birth of Buddha  
d) To purify oneself by following a vegetarian diet

4. Which festival is known for its extreme rituals, including firewalking and body piercing?

a) Rocket Festival      b) Phi Ta Khon  
c) Vegetarian Festival      d) Buffalo Racing Festival

5. The Royal Ploughing Ceremony is held to mark the beginning of which season?

- a) Rainy Season
- b) Rice-Growing Season
- c) Winter Season
- d) Harvest Season

## True or False Questions

6. The Songkran Festival is celebrated in November.	T / F
7. Loy Krathong and Yi Peng are celebrated at the same time in November. (True / False)	T / F
8. The Rocket Festival is held in Northern Thailand to celebrate the Thai New Year. (True / False)	T / F
9. Visakha Bucha Day commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and passing of Buddha.	T / F
10. The Buffalo Racing Festival takes place in Chonburi and features decorated buffaloes in races.	T / F

### Short Answer Questions

11. Name two festivals in Thailand that involve floating objects in water or the sky.

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12. What is the symbolic meaning of releasing lanterns during Yi Peng?

13. Which festival in Thailand is considered the "Festival of Lights"?

14. How do people traditionally celebrate Songkran apart from the water fights?

<sup>10</sup> See, for example, the discussion of the 1993 Constitutional Conference in the section on the Constitutional Conference.

15. Why is December 5 considered a significant national holiday in Thailand?